

DECISION RECORD

**Amendment of the
1993 Redding Resource Management Plan
to Allow Land Sales**

**Environmental Assessment
CA-360-RE-2005-19**

October 2005

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Redding Field Office
355 Hemsted Drive
Redding, CA 96002**

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SUMMARY

A primary objective of the Redding, California, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 1993 Resource Management Plan (RMP) is consolidation of the scattered public land base into a small number of resource management units. The result will be improved management efficiency and better service for public land users. Until now, the primary tool for land consolidation has been the land exchange process.

Passage of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) on July 25, 2000 now allows BLM field offices to retain proceeds from the sale of public land. This mechanism did not exist before FLTFA. Funds from the sale of public land identified in the 1993 RMP as suitable for disposal may now be used by the Redding Field Office for the goal of consolidating public land holdings within areas identified as acquisition areas.

DECISION

It is my decision to amend the 1993 Redding Resource Management Plan to allow sales as described in environmental assessment CA-360-RE-2005-19.

The amended RMP language adds land sales as an additional tool for disposal of identified public lands in the RMP. Land exchanges will continue to be an option to complete land tenure (ownership) adjustments. This amendment allows the field manager the flexibility of choosing either land sale or exchange for future land tenure actions.

Those lands currently dedicated to pending land exchanges and segregated for exchange will remain available for exchange until the segregation is terminated. This amendment does not change the designation of any lands that are identified for disposal in the RMP.

PUBLIC INTEREST DETERMINATION

The BLM manages Federal lands in the public interest. Transfer of properties to consolidate ownership for the purpose of management efficiency takes into account a broad area of public interest. The public involvement process enables the Bureau to identify legitimate public issues and evaluate the environmental effects to determine the alternative that best serves the public within the jurisdictional area. Sales may simplify the process of disposal of Federal lands that have limited resource values, expediting acquisition of land that have more important resource and recreational management opportunities. Therefore, I find that this action is in the public interest.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No Action Alternative

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT DISMISSED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

Sale Only Alternative

Retention of Public Land Parcels near Streams Alternative

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATION (RATIONALE)

Use of sales as a tool for land tenure adjustment will provide additional flexibility to the Redding Field Office Manager. FLTFA will allow sales to serve as a disposal mechanism and may generate revenue for acquisition of parcels within RMP-designated areas. All sales and acquisitions will continue to be conducted in an effort to satisfy the objectives of the 1993 RMP. This amendment does not change the designation of any lands that are identified for disposal in the RMP. Therefore, there would be minimal environmental impacts to the lands already identified for disposal, the rate of disposal by the different methods may differ.

One of the benefits anticipated as a result of the proposed action is the ability to respond to acquisition opportunities in federally designated areas such as ACECs and Wild and Scenic River corridors. The improved capability to respond to acquisition opportunities will also assist conservation partners in securing properties on behalf of BLM. As a result of the plan amendment, the rate of acquisitions is anticipated to be less than past levels, but more than would be realized under the no-action alternative. Competitive bid sales of public land should realize the true market value of the property, minimizing disagreements over appraised values.

The BLM will be able to more effectively dispose of small isolated parcels that require public resources to manage, allowing resources to be concentrated on areas of high public interest. As an end result, the use and enjoyment of the public lands will be enhanced.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on April 11, 2005, requesting comments for the proposed RMP amendment. A press release was sent to all five counties in the resource area (Siskiyou, Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, and Butte). Notice was published in the Siskiyou Daily News on May 3, 2005 and the Redding Record Searchlight on May 7, 2005. The Notice of Intent was sent to approximately 96 people for the proposed project on April 26, 2005. These included the governor, governmental agencies, adjacent land owners, right-of-way holders, Native American groups, and other interested parties. The BLM received 9 comments from individuals. Public comments received were requests for clarification or to express interest in buying public land. A public meeting was not held for this project because it was apparent that the issue was not controversial from the number and nature of the comments received. Steve Anderson, Field Manager, and Francis Berg, Assistant Field Manager, presented the proposed RMP amendment to the Trinity County Board of Supervisors on July 5, 2005. Comments from

the audience and the Board were positive. The environmental assessment was sent to the mailing list noted above. A press release was published on September 16, 2005, in the five counties affected by the amendment, announcing the beginning of the protest period. The protest period ended on October 17, 2005.

PROTESTS

No protests were received.

GOVERNOR'S CONSISTENCY REVIEW AND LOCAL PLAN CONSISTENCY

The proposed amendment environmental assessment was submitted to the State Clearinghouse on August 24, 2005 for a Governor's Consistency Review. This office received a response from the State Clearing House dated October 3, 2005 stating that the amendment had been sent to selected state agencies for review. One response was received from the California Department of Transportation regarding non transferability of encroachment permits to new owners. The State Clearinghouse letter also stated that this office has complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for environmental documents.

Because the proposed plan amendment does not change the lands identified for disposal, the amended RMP would remain consistent with state and local land use plans.

DECISION APPROVED BY:



Mike Pool
California State Director
Bureau of Land Management

11/15/05
Date

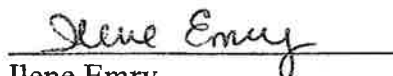
RECOMMENDED BY:



Steven W. Anderson
Field Manager
BLM, Redding Field Office

Oct 26, 2005
Date

PREPARED BY:



Ilene Emry
Realty Specialist
BLM, Redding Field Office

Oct. 26, 2005
Date

REVIEWED BY:



Glen Miller
Environmental Coordinator
BLM, Redding Field Office

Oct. 26, 2005
Date